



State Representative
Michael Caron

Dear Friend,

I hope you have enjoyed your summer as autumn is now here. It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as your State Representative for the 44th District in the House of Representatives.

This report briefly covers some of the topics debated and passed during the regular legislative session, and I hope you will find it informative.

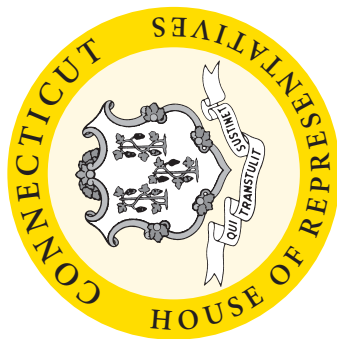
As always, if you have any concerns, questions or comments regarding state issues please don't hesitate to call or write.

Very truly yours,



Representative Caron and other legislators view a car powered on solar energy.

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit #3937



State Representative
MICHAEL CARON
Proudly Serving the 44th District
Killingly ★ Plainfield ★ Sterling



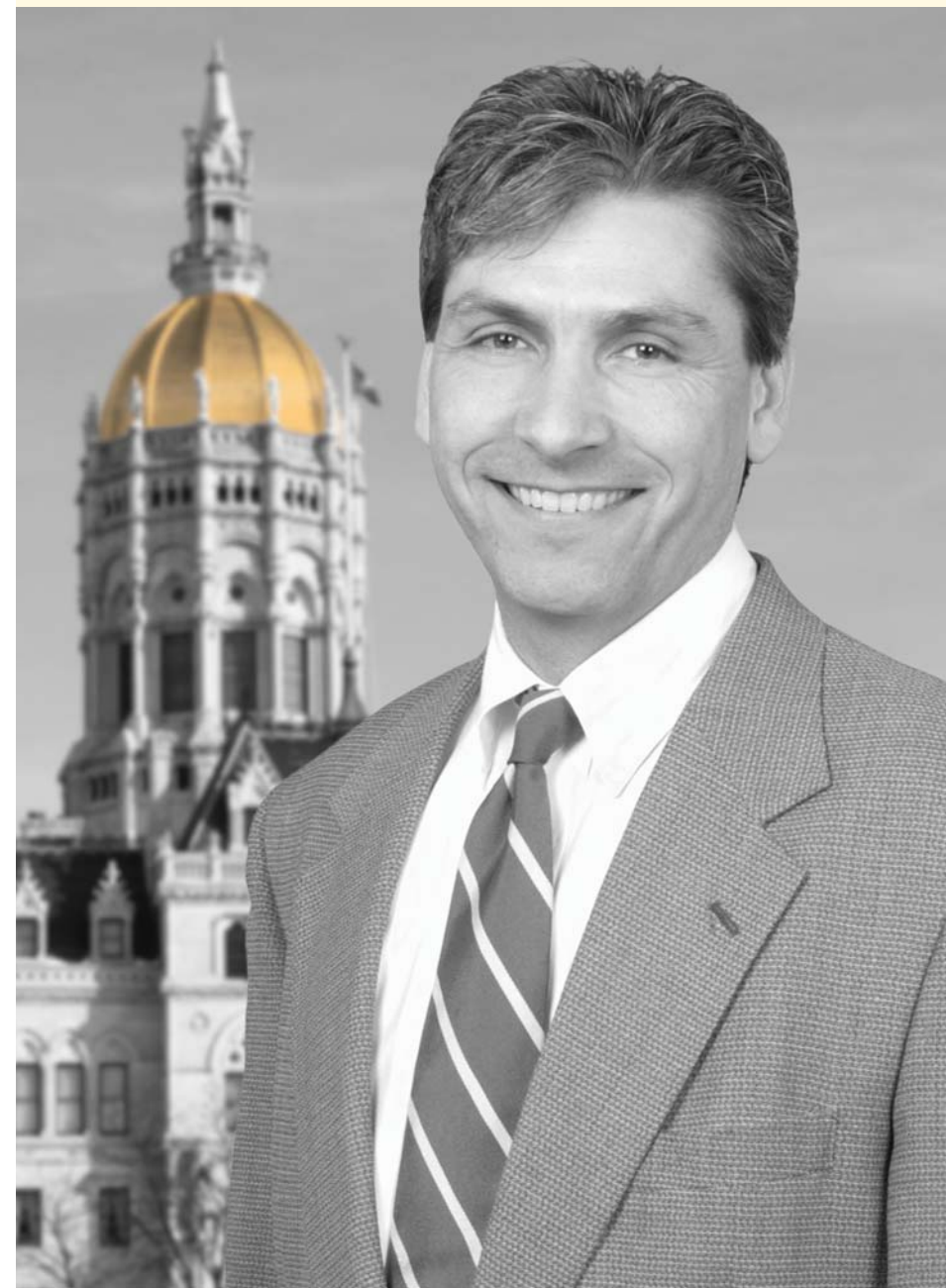
Representative Michael Caron
Room 4200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

TELEPHONE:
(860) 240-8700

E-MAIL:
michael.caron@housegop.state.ct.us

Please visit our website www.housegop.state.ct.us

2005 LEGISLATIVE
REPORT



State Representative
MICHAEL CARON
Proudly Serving the 44th District
Killingly ★ Plainfield ★ Sterling



Representative Caron speaks on the floor of the House during the 2005 Legislative Session.

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

Eminent Domain

The issue of the use of eminent domain came to the fore during the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision concerning New London. The court ruled that Connecticut's eminent domain laws are constitutional but stressed that the state could amend them. It is clear that action should be taken as quickly as possible considering the sweep and impact of this court decision. Unfortunately, the Democratic majority defeated an amendment aimed at limiting eminent domain. I joined many of my colleagues in pressing for a special session of the legislature to address this matter and to preserve the private property rights of Connecticut residents.

Fighting for Fair School Funding

The distribution of education dollars continues to be lopsided. Many of my colleagues and I will continue the fight for fair funding of public education. Currently the state school aid formula now sends \$9,000 per pupil to students in the cities, while suburban and rural children receive state funding as low as \$100.

For Seniors and Veterans

This year the legislature passed measures that provide discounted in-state tuition to military people stationed in Connecticut. We also provided a variety of additional benefits for members of the Connecticut National Guard. Money was allocated to implement the federal Medicare Part D prescription drug program, and the state's Commission on Aging was moved from the Department of Social Services to the legislative branch.

Identity Theft

Due to the increased incidence of identity theft the legislature passed a bill allowing consumers to place a freeze on their credit report and requires a credit bureau to place the freeze within five days. The credit freeze prohibits a creditor from giving information to any third party without the creditor's permission.

Patients' Bill of Rights

This year we passed legislation that requires hospitals to notify each patient of the rights he has under the hospital's participation in Medicare. Notification must be made upon the patient's admission and can be made to his guardian or representative as allowed by state and federal law. The notice must be written; specifically state the rights identified in the Medicare conditions of participation; and provide information on how the patient can complain when he believes his rights have been violated, including contacting the Department of Public Health.

Green Buildings

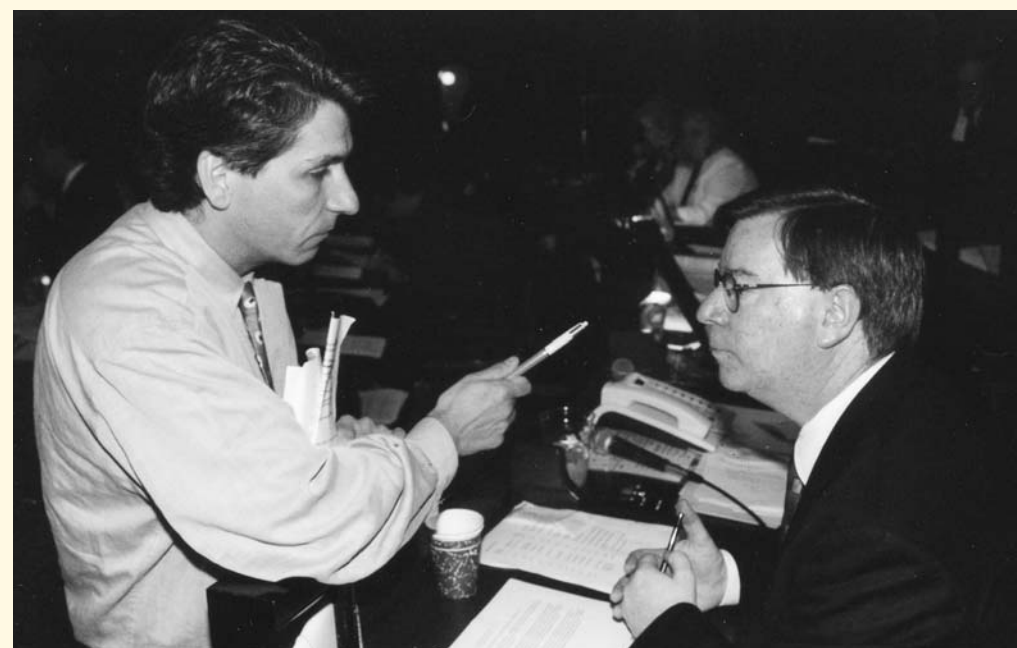
This year I introduced legislation that would require certain state-financed new facility construction to comply with green building regulations if it is projected to cost at least \$ 1 million, and receive at least 25% state financing. The bill requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), with the commissioners of the Public Works (DPW), Environmental Protection, and Public Safety departments to develop regulations that are consistent with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design's (LEED) rating system silver building or higher rating for new commercial construction and major renovation projects. The bill very nearly passed, however, as the clock ran down on the session, it was not called in time. I will renew work on the bill again during the 2006 session.

North East Economic Alliance Gets Funds

The North East Economic Alliance is a non-profit lending organization that serves 21 towns in the region. It is a lender of last resort for a number of businesses, from mom and pop shops all the way up to major manufacturing companies. I successfully pushed for bond funds in this year's budget and obtained \$200,000 in 2005, and \$200,000 in 2006, for the Alliance to support economic growth in our region.

Aid for Our Towns

I was pleased this year to support a budget that brought and additional \$545,000 to Killingly, \$132,000 to Sterling, and \$341,000 to Plainfield in state aid dollars to be used for education, road and facility improvements, and to offset the impact of improved local services to local property taxpayers.



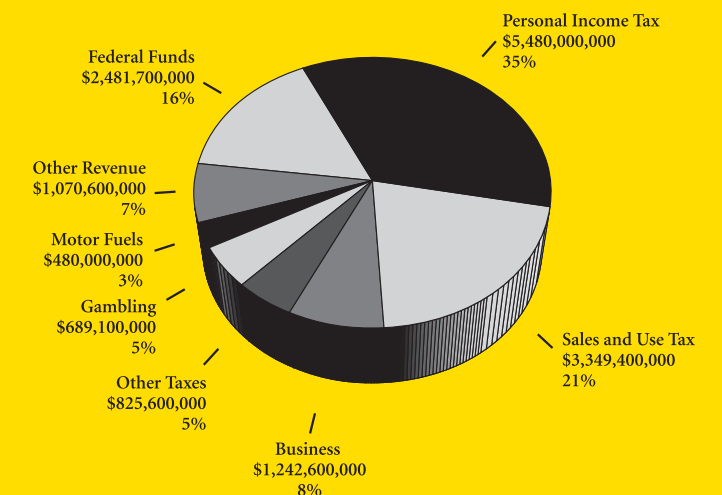
Representative Caron speaks with House Minority Leader Robert Ward on the floor of the House.

Transportation

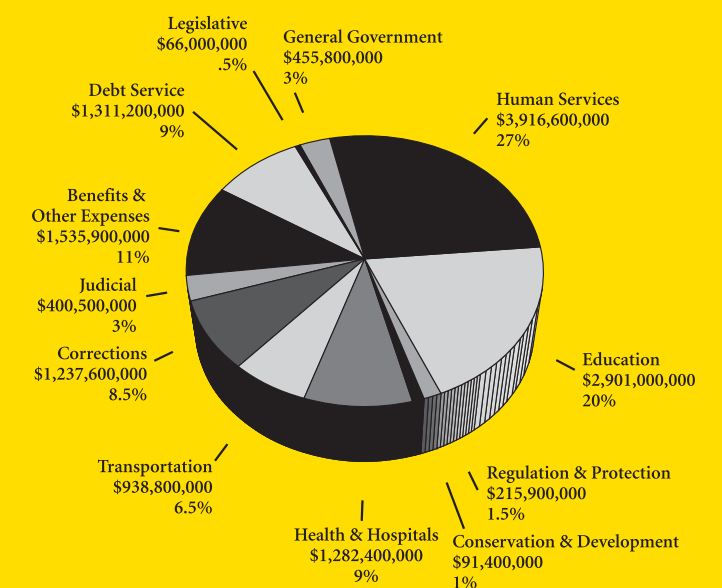
The Governor's proposal to implement a \$1.3 billion comprehensive transportation restructuring for the state was approved by the legislature this year, which is aimed at improving state highways and interstates, as well as upgrading public transportation. The legislature also passed measures that ban the use of hand-held cell phones while driving, prohibit the use of pocket bikes on all public roads, expand the required use of booster seats for children, and add certain restrictions on teenage drivers.

BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2005 THE 2005 GENERAL FUND AND THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND SPENDS \$14.4 BILLION

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



**Revenues Exceeded Spending Leaving A General Fund Surplus of \$777 Million*